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**"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday
and today and forever." Hebrews 13:8**

Dear Friends,

Last month at the 14th Advocates Asia Conference in New Delhi, India, over 100 advocates, law students and judges from 12 different countries—including Australia, India, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Nepal, South Korea, Switzerland, Russia, Tajikistan, the UK and the US—met together to discuss our theme, Advocates as Catalysts of Change. The most important aspect of that theme was God's unchanging nature.

A catalyst is a substance that increases the rate of a chemical reaction without itself undergoing any permanent chemical change. It can also be a person who precipitates an event. As followers of Jesus, we are called to be salt and light in a needy and dark world—catalysts that positively affect the world around us. What a great encouragement to meet together with brothers and sisters who are living proof that when we allow ourselves to be used by God for His purposes, amazing things can happen. Please allow me to share with you some of the most encouraging and challenging updates from across Asia.

Advocate Saudaranta Tarigan shared that, since hosting last year's conference in Jakarta, the Indonesian Christian Legal Society has seen a tremendous growth in their fellowship. They now have five city chapters and two more expected before the end of 2015. All this is happening in the world's most populous Muslim nation. Please pray for the ICLS lawyers as they prepare a petition to change the law on church registrations which currently makes it very difficult for new churches to open.

Our colleagues from Advocates Korea are dealing with cultural challenges similar to those we face in the U.S. Please pray with us for their efforts in both North Korea where Christians face horrendous persecution, and South Korea where the Church is under attack in the culture wars.

In Kyrgyzstan, Asel Bayastanova reports a complete cultural breakdown with high levels of corruption and church registration laws that make it extremely difficult for believers who wish to start new churches, leaving many to meet secretly in homes, much like the early church. In Tajikistan, Firuza Khazratkulova shared the alarming increase in the popularity of ISIS and similar challenges with corruption. She herself was caught up recently in a row with a court security guard whose illegal actions resulted in bogus charges brought against her. Please pray with us for Asel and Firuza and all of their colleagues in Central Asia. They are planning a second regional conference in Kyrgyzstan again next summer.

Our friends from the Rule of Law Institute of Mongolia, although unable to join us, report a rise in problems facing Christian ministries. New laws require re-registration each year, often delayed by bureaucrats, and new fees for foreign religious workers amounting to \$2500 each, and registration fees for religious NGOs costing almost ten times the rate of for-profit businesses. Please pray with us for the work of RLIM and for Baasankhuu and Nomiko and their daughter, Grace.

In Malaysia, Min Choon Lee shared, although the fellowship of lawyers is active in two cities, many of the lawyers are often “too busy” to be involved. Pray with us that God will provide the space and time needed for growth in their fellowships. In Russia, Katya Smyslova reports a new “Iron Curtain” of the mind with the return of a greater police state. Russians have become more isolated and are choosing not to travel abroad, or even within their own country. Pray for Katya and other Christian lawyers as they seek to change Russia.

According to our Nepalese Advocates, Ganesh and Buddha, their government recently adopted a new constitution on September 20, 2015, making Nepal an officially secular state. Unfortunately, despite language in the new constitution providing for religious freedom, there is also language that prohibits converting from one faith to another. In addition, new laws restricting churches and pastors are problematic, resulting in increasing persecution of pastors. Finally, Nepal is currently being blockaded by India and they are facing petrol and food shortages. Please pray with us for Nepal.

Our colleagues with the Christian Legal Association of India share that under Prime Minister Modi, India has seen a growing intolerance against minority faiths, with an increase in hatred and violence, attempts to stifle free speech, and efforts to pass national anti-conversion laws. In addition, the justice system is not working well, with many facing delayed cases. Several bright spots, however, include an increasing number of legal aid centers across the country. Please pray with us for the ongoing efforts of CLA lawyers as they assist prosecutors in Orissa state where in 2008 hundreds of Christians were killed by violent mobs.

Finally, I’d like to share with you one of the most encouraging reports I heard while in India. In the May/June 2013 Prayer Calendar, we asked you to pray with us for the wife of Advocate G.G. Prakash who had cancer. He thanked me and shared that soon after sending out our prayer request, his wife’s cancer was completely healed and she is once again working as an evangelist and speaker. He wanted to thank all of you for your prayers for his wife.

Thank you for your continued prayers for the work of Advocates. Your support allows us to act as catalysts, encouraging and equipping Advocates to do justice with compassion, while remaining steadfast on the firm foundation of Jesus Christ.

May the Lord bless and keep you in His perfect . . .

Grace and Peace,



Brent McBurney
President and CEO